



Fact Sheet

Commercial Waste Disposal Assessment

In the *Beyond 2000 Solid Waste Master Plan*, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) identified commercial waste reduction as one of the priority areas that the Agency will focus on to achieve its 2010 waste reduction goals. DEP believes the greatest waste reduction gains over the next decade will come from the commercial sector.

In October 2002, DEP published a Commercial Waste Disposal Assessment Report. This report confirms DEP's Master Plan emphasis on targeting the commercial sector. DEP will use this report to better plan its commercial waste reduction activities and programs and to target specific business sectors and materials that have the greatest potential for increased waste reduction.

DEP's report is based on a comprehensive waste composition study conducted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, combined with Massachusetts employment data. The results of the assessment show estimated amounts disposed, as opposed to amounts generated. This study does not take into account several variables, including recycling activity, business size and specific type within a category, and potential differences between the same category of business in Massachusetts versus California.

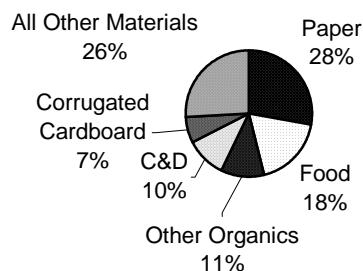
Top Five Materials Disposed in 2000

According to the assessment, the top five materials disposed across all industries in 2000 were:

1. Paper: 1,143,000 tons
2. Food: 763,000 tons
3. Other Organics¹: 462,000 tons
4. C&D: 424,000 tons
5. Cardboard: 274,000 tons

These top five materials made up 3,065,000 tons, or 74%, of the total materials disposed by the commercial sector in 2000.

Top Five Materials Disposed in 2000 in Comparison With All Other Materials



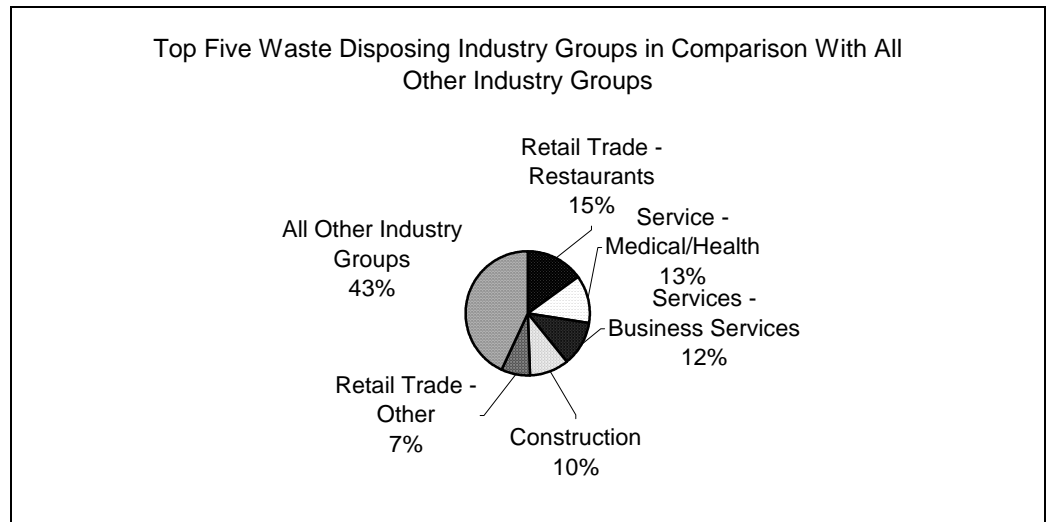
Top Five Industries By Amount Disposed in 2000

The top five industries in terms of estimated amount disposed in 2000 were:

1. Restaurants: 620,000 tons
2. Medical/Health Services: 516,000 tons
3. Business Services: 475,000 tons
4. Construction: 428,000 tons
5. Other Retail: 308,000 tons

¹ Other organics includes leaves, trimmings, brush, and other yard waste.

These five industries disposed a total of 2,349,000 tons of materials in 2000. This is 57% of the total estimated tons disposed by all industry categories within this analysis.²



The following table shows the *Top Ten Potential Target Areas for Waste Reduction*. These target areas were based on material disposal amounts per Industry Group in 2000. Actual program target areas may differ from this list since, in deciding where to focus waste reduction efforts and resources, DEP will take other factors into account such as: amount of material generated at each business location; willingness of businesses to participate in a waste reduction program; ability to reduce waste costs effectively, etc.

Material Type	Industry Group Name	Amount³	% of Total⁴
Food	Retail Trade - Restaurants	347,000	8.4 %
Paper	Service - Medical/Health	220,000	5.3 %
C&D	Construction	169,000	4.1 %
Paper	Services - Business Services	163,000	3.9 %
Paper	Retail Trade - Restaurants	119,000	2.9 %
Food	Retail Trade - Food Store	111,000	2.7 %
Paper	Retail Trade - Other	85,000	2.1 %
Textiles	Services - Business Services	79,000	1.9 %
Other Organics	Service - Medical/Health	72,000	1.8 %
Paper	Services - Other Professional	72,000	1.7 %

For more information on this assessment, or for a copy of the full report, please contact Karen Michaels at (617) 574-6820 or by email at Karen.Michaels@state.ma.us.

² Total tons of materials disposed by all industry groups in 2000 was estimated at 4,126,000 tons.

³ The amounts in this chart show the total estimated amount of that material type disposed of by that industry group for 2000.

⁴ The “% of Total” column refers to the percent of the overall estimated commercial disposal of 4,126,000 tons.

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Produced by the
Bureau of Waste Prevention,
November 2002.

Printed on recycled paper.

This information is available in
alternate format by calling our
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